

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 T-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 L-03 IGA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01 GAC-01

/108 W

----- 074319

R 161630 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1203

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1416

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, TS

SUBJECT: US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: GOT REQUEST RE RADIO
TRANSMITTER

REF: A. STATE 048022

B. TUNIS 0211

C. TUNIS 0931

D. STATE 015807

E. STATE 003538

F. TUNIS 0295

1. I APPRECIATE SYMPATHETIC HIGH LEVEL CONSIDERATION OF
AID PROBLEMS WE FACE HERE AS EXPRESSED REF A. I HAVE
INITIAL COMMENT RE PARA 2 REF A CONCERNING PRESIDENT
BOURGUIBA' S REQUEST FOR HELP WITH BROADCASTING FACILITIES.
I AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT DEPT IS WILLING TO SEND RADIO
ENGINEER TO TUNIS TO EXAMINE EXISTING FACILITIES AND OFFER
ADVICE ON IMPROVEMENT. I WILL BE PLEASED TO CONVEY THIS
TO GOT.

2. NEVERTHELESS, IT REMAINS TRUE THAT WE ORIGINALLY
RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA' S REQUEST.
DID SO IN MY CONVERSATION WITH CHATTI (TUNIS 0295) IN
ACCORDANCE WITH DEPT' S GUIDELINES CONTAINED STATE 003538
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ANDSTATE 008619, GROWING OUT OF TUNIS 0211. AT THAT TIME I TOLD CHATTI INTER ALIA THAT GRANT AID WAS OUT AND CONCESSIONAL TERM WERE UNAVAILABLE. I WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO TELL HIM THAT ASSISTANCE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE OBTAINED BY OTHER CHANNELS (PARA 4, STATE 008619).

3. I REALIZE THAT DEPT' S POSITION WAS MODIFIED SOMEWHAT DURING SECRETARY NEWSOM- EL GOULLI CONVERSATION JAN 26 (STATE 015807). BUT I DID NOT INTERPRET THE CHANGE AS SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE TO ENABLE ME TO RETURN TO BOURGUIBA OR CHATTI TO MODIFY WHAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD LATTER. ACCORDING STATE 015807, EL GOULLI WAS INFORMED ON JAN 26 ONLY THAT " FULL TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR GOT BEFORE USG CAN DETERMINE WHETHER RPT WHETHER IT WILL BE ABLE TO HELP". WE FURTHER TOLD HIM THAT WE " MIGHT RPT MIGHT BE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR TECHNICAL EXPERT TO VISIT TUNIS TO LOOK OVER EXISTING FACILITIES." PROVIDED RPT PROVIDED THAT " GOT COULD PROVIDE COMPLETE TECHNICAL INFORMATION ETC."

4. OUR GESTURE TO SEND RADIO ENGINEER WILL NO DOUBT BE WELCOMED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW BOURGUIBA' S OPINION OF US TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS (TUNIS 1275). BUT HE WAS ALSO LOOKING, NOT ONLY FOR USG MONEY (WHICH WE CLEARLY CANNOT PROVIDE) BUT ALSO FOR QUICK SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE IN KEEPING WITH HIS VIEW OF US- TUNISIAN RELATIONSHIP. ON LATTER POINT HE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY MUCH DISAPPOINTED. SEELYE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
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